GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:191
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2007
STANFORD INDIA BIODESIGN PROGRAMME
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently launched the Stanford-India Biodesign Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States likely to be benefitted therefrom; and

(d) the time by which the said programme is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.191 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.08.2007 REGARDING STANFORD-INDIA BIODESIGN PROGRAMME

(a)&(b) Yes Sir, the Department of Biotechnology has taken an initiative to promote medical technology innovation in India in collaboration with the Stanford University, USA. In order to discuss the concept of this initiative, a meeting was organized in January, 2007 in Delhi by inviting five leading overseas experts from Stanford University,USA and about 35 Indian participants. Based on the consensus, a collaborative venture has been initiated as "Stanford-India Biodesign programme".

The objective is to create medical technology innovation in India in partnership with Stanford University by developing leaders in biomedical technology. This initiative seeks to provide training to young engineers from IITs, leading engineering institutions with partner medical institution to identify major health needs in India and develop solutions that are cost-effective and widely deployable across a broad socio-economic spectrum.

The programme goals are:

(i) to introduce medical technology innovation into education system

(ii) to establish Centre of Excellence at each IIT in partnership with a medical institution

(iii) to identify opportunities for medical technology development through observation of patients by a multidisciplinary team comprising of biologist, engineers, chemists and medical persons, then to select at least one new technology for group to be designed and develop it into a prototype.

The focus of the programme will be on the development of implants, medical devices and bioinstrumentation. The initial development phase will include an intensive design and planning process based on the national needs. The faculty and fellows would be trained in the design innovation process by providing hands-on training at Stanford University, USA. Once the training will be over, the team will come back to India and start designing process and identifying clinical needs/challenges in India based on their experience at Stanford University, USA.

(c) The first Stanford-India Biodesign (SIB) Programme has been launched jointly at AIIMS and IIT, Delhi. Subsequently, pairs of IITs and partner medical schools will be identified in the country to set up more SIBs for the next five years on a competitive basis.

(d) Currently, the duration of the progrmme is for a period of five years.